

Summary of *Dear John*

Dear John is a compelling love story written by Nicholas Sparks. A young man, John, sees no other options for himself other than to enlist in the army out of high school. After some time serving his duty he returns home on leave to the beaches of North Carolina. There he meets Savannah, a student who is on break on the same beach. She is there on a mission trip working with Habitat for Humanity helping to build houses for the less fortunate.

They meet when John dives into the ocean to retrieve Savannah's purse that accidentally fell in off of the pier. They begin a friendship and Savannah invites him to hang out with her group of friends for an evening. Even though, Savannah invites John to join her and her friends to a wild party on the beach, he realizes just how sincere and mature she and her good friend Tim really are. The friendship that she and John share quickly grows to a deep romance.

Immediately that romance is tested when John has to return overseas for duty. Although they knew that they would only be able together for those two weeks, their passion for each other remains strong. They made vows to each other to always look for the full moons and to always think of each other when they saw one. This would be their way of connecting without literally being side by side.

Somehow they make their short-termed relationship work. Savannah writes him letters continuously that always begin with the phrase "Dear John". Their romance continues as John returns home on yet another leave worried about his father's health. Like she promised, Savannah was there to meet him when he got home. John realizes that everything in his life leads him back to her.

While John was deployed, she has been visiting with his father and believes that he has a form of autism called Asperger's Disease. She has always had a place in her heart for children and adults with these types of problems. She works with him and includes John on

her beliefs and feelings about his father. John and his father have always had a tough time. They had a relationship that continued to tear them apart because of his father's unknown condition. Because John's mother was not around, he had only his father to rely on for support and guidance.

The bond between John and his father grows a little closer with Savannah's help. His father has always been interested in coins. This was the only thing that kept him going and kept the bond between him and John connected. The collection that his father has is remarkable and very obviously worth a lot of money, but his father would have never thought to have sold it.

The attacks on the World Trade Center occurred and John has the troubling decision to re-enlist to serve his country or remain with Savannah the love of his life. Against Savannah's will he re-enlists and is shipped out shortly thereafter. This trial on their relationship was tough. Savannah wrote him letters that again began with "Dear John". They continued to look to the sky for the full moon to think about each other.

They have such a strong relationship that they even vow to get married to each other when he returns. She wants to wait for his return even though she knows it will be one of the toughest things she would ever have to do. She tries to keep herself busy with school, volunteering, and visits with his father.

Their relationship was tested to its fullest. Savannah wrote him one more letter. She included "Dear John" and ended with the words "good-bye". With the passing of his father, John returns home once again. He seeks out to find Savannah. When he does he finds that love is, as always, unpredictable and transforming in ways he could never imagine.